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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/742,128	12/19/2003	Ankur P. Panchbudhe	VRT0117US	5026
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CSA LLP			DOAN, DUC T	
4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BLDG. 4, SUITE 201			2188	
AUSTIN, TX 78759				

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/742,128	PANCHBUDHE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duc T. Doan	2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 27,29-42,44-46,48-50 and 52-54 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 27,29-42,44-46,48-50 and 52-54 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/4/07 has been entered.

Claims 1-61 have been presented for examination in this application. In response to the last Office Action, claims 1-26,28,43,47,51,55-61 have been cancelled, claims 27,42,46,50 were amended. As a result, claims 27,29-42,44-46,48-50,52-54 are now pending in this application.

Applicant's amendments/remarks filed 6/4/07 have been fully considered with the results as follows,

Claims 27,29-42,44-46,48-50,52-54 are rejected.

Drawing Objection

The drawings filed on 12/19/2003 is objected to because Figure 2, in light of the specification's paragraph 8, should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art—because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP 608.02(g).

Claim Objections

Claim 42 is objected to because the claim appears direct to element "performing means" with only intention for performing the operation (see claim 42 line 5). In other words, the claim is not positively recited.

Claim 44 has the similar defect, that is the claim directs to an obtaining module with an intention to obtain only. In other words, the claim is not positively recited.

Claim 46 is objected to because the claim directs to a module with only intention and capable of performing the operation (see claim 48 line 6, “a performing module configured to perform..”). In other words, the claim is not positively recited.

Claim 49 has the similar defect, that is the claim directs to an obtaining module with an intention to obtain only. In other words, the claim is not positively recited.

Claim Rejection 35 USC 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 42-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As in claim 42, the claim directs to the system having “performing means for performing the operation..”. The performing mean further in light of the specification’s paragraph 96 lines 1-2 can be implemented using software modules only. Because the claim appears to direct only to software per se, it renders the claim to be non-statutory.

As in claim 46, the claim directs to the system having software modules only (i.e in light of specification’s paragraph 96 lines 1-2). Because the claim appears to direct only to software per se, it renders the claim to be non-statutory.

All dependent claims are rejected as having the same deficiencies as the claim(s) they depend from.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 27,29-30,32-42,44-46,48-50,52-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Miyata et al (US 2003/0225972).

As in claim 27, Miyata describes a method comprising: in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of location in a storage area (Miyata 's Fig 11, paragraphs 87-88 discloses a mechanism that the controller Fig 1: #131 perform a copy

duplicate operation by registering the duplicate function. This processing is executed by the client computer. In other words, the duplicated function is formed/registered in response to a request for duplication operation being processed by client computer Fig 1: #11a), and performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is identified in the at least one location description of the sieve associated with the operation (Miyata's paragraph 86, Fig 2 discloses performing a specific operation on the data/locations identified by attribute bits Fig 2: #202 having value of 1); wherein the sieve comprises at least one location description and a property, wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation (Miyata further discloses a mechanism comprising structures Fig 4, Fig 2 that describe location (Fig 2: LBA) and property comprises information identifying operation such as copying data to cache (Fig 2: #203 attribute bit, for example, Miyata's paragraph 86 discloses when the file attribute bit is one, the copy operation is necessary performed on the data block at the location indicated in Fig 2) and wherein the at least one location description identifies all storage locations within the storage area upon which the operation can be performed (Miyata's Fig 2, Fig 4-5 further disclose that all bits Fig 2: #203 with value 1 and these blocks belong to the files as shown in Figs 4, 5 identifies all storage locations within the storage area upon which the operation can be performed).

As in claim 29, Miyata further describes wherein the at least one location description is specified by an application program (Miyata's paragraphs 96-99 describes API and methods for user to specifying the areas to be duplicated, Miyata paragraphs 34-37,39-40,44 further discloses the mechanism for application program to instruct and communicate with other modules in host Fig 1: #13 and storage unit Fig 1: #14).

As in claim 30, Miyata further describes wherein the operation is replication (Miyata 's column 3, lines 18-21, paragraph 84).

As in claim 32, Miyata further describes wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of the operation are designated by a requester (Miyata's paragraphs 96-99 describes API and methods for user to specifying the areas to be duplicated, Miyata paragraphs 34-37,39-40,44 further discloses the mechanism for application program to instruct and communicate with other modules in host Fig 1: #13 and storage unit Fig 1: #14).

As in claims 33-35, Miyata further describes obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed (claim 33, paragraph 86-87, Fig 11, the processor #13 obtained the copy "ditto" operation designated by client computer #11); wherein the requester manages data in the storage area (claim 34, Miyata's paragraph 96); wherein the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage area (claim 35, Miyata's paragraph 95)

As in claims 36, Miyata further describes wherein the requester identifies a respective physical location described in the at least one location description (Miyata's paragraphs 96-98 disclose that the client/user identifies respective storage regions for the copy/duplicate operation).

As in claim 37, Miyata describes wherein each location in the second set of locations is specified by a beginning location and a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location (Miyata 's column 6, lines 1-3, lines 30-39).

As in claim 38, Miyata describes wherein the at least one location description

is designated by a set of indicators, wherein the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of locations Miyata's Fig 4, Fig 2, paragraphs 50-52 describes each attribute bit associated with its corresponding storage location such as a data block), and each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the indicator is described in the at least location description (Miyata's Fig 4, Fig 2, paragraphs 50-52 describes each attribute bit describing the corresponding operation such as duplication for the corresponding data block).

As in claim 39, Miyata further describes obtaining a second set of locations location; and performing a second operation on the second set of location after the operation is performed on the given location (Miyata's paragraph 75 further discloses several operations are recursively operating on several set of locations (i.e several files)).

As in claim 40, Miyata further describes the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of the operation are designated by the requester; and the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester (Miyata's paragraphs 67-68,98 further discloses information corresponding to commands for different type of operations, and attributes can be obtained from user)

As in claim 41, Miyata further discloses each type of operation in the sieve is performed on a given location if the sieve is specified (Miyata's paragraphs 70, 102 further disclose a mechanism in which type of operations is specified, for example caching or remote copy; and the specific operation is performed accordingly on the give location that being specified for the operation, see Miyata's paragraphs 85-86).

As in claim 42,46,50 the claims are rejected based on the same rationale as of claim 27.

As in claims 44,48,52 the claims are rejected based on the same rationale as of claim 32.

As in claims 45,49,53 the claims are rejected based on the same rationale as of claim 33.

As in claim 54, it rejected based on the same rationale as of claim 50. Miyata's Fig 1 further discloses a system includes processor (Fig 1: #11a) and computer readable media (Fig 1: #143).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyata et al (US 2003/0225972) as applied in claim 27, and further in view of Krishnamurthy (US 6823436).

As in claim 31, Miyata does not expressly describe the claim's detail of subsets. However, Krishnamurthy's column 4 lines 43-49 describes as follows: obtaining a set of entities, wherein the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations (data blocks in an extent), It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include copy method as suggested by Krishnamurthy in Miyata's system such that data is being

copied from the source storage area to the destination area in a small chunk of contiguous blocks of data, and thereby data can be provided to the host from either source drive or target drive much sooner (Krishnamurthy's column 4 lines 13-30).

Regarding the claim's aspect of permission, Miyata clearly discloses the file attributes contains information for permitting operations to be performed on the file (see Miyata's Fig 4, paragraph 52).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments in response to the last office action has been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant's arguments for the following reasons:

A) Regarding remarks on pages 9-11 for the rejection under U.S.C 102 of claims 27,29-30,32-42,44-46,48-50,52-54,

Applicant's arguments on page 8-11 for the rejection of claim 27 are further traversed as follows,

A) Applicant's remarks that Miyata does not teach the claim's limitation "in response to a request ..". Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Miyata 's Fig 11, paragraphs 87-88 discloses a mechanism that the controller Fig 1: #131 perform a copy duplicate operation by registering the duplicate function. This processing is executed by the client computer. In other words, the duplicated function is formed/registered in response to a request for duplication operation being processed by client computer Fig 1: #11a

B) Applicant's remarks on page 8 line 24 to page 9 line 18 that Miyata operation referring to file somehow "quite different than operating on a physical location" and "the former operates in a logical construct that can be located in any of a variety of possible physical location, while the latter operates on a physical location, regardless of whether that physical location stores data for a particular file or directory". Firstly, the **physical** location is not recited in the claim, the claim's limitation broadly recites "a set of location". Secondly, the **physical** location is not defined in the specification. In fact, the phrase "physical location" cannot be found anywhere in the specification. Therefore, Applicant's whole arguments for "physical location" does not have any support in the instant application.

Miyata's clearly discloses the operation is performed for set of locations (i.e locations of data blocks having attribute bit #203 set to value 1). Miyata's Fig 4 and 5 further discloses these locations are being organized/mapped into files and directories. Thus the operations being performed on these data blocks of the files clearly met the claim's limitation of "performing the operation upon given set of location.."

C) Regarding the Applicant's remarks on page 9 line 19 to page 11 line 13, Applicant appears to argue that Miyata does not teach a mechanism that comprise the property or the location description of claim 27. Examiner respectfully disagrees; both the property and the location description are discussed in the rationale for the rejection of claim 27, and further discussed in above paragraphs. That is Miyata's Figs 2, 4-5 teaches all locations (i.e all LBA blocks) having attribute bits #203 with value 1 in the files being identified for the operation (see Miyata's paragraphs 85-86 discloses an embodiment in which an extend attribute readily added to representing whether the duplication/operation be executed in the file; In this embodiment, the

attribute #203 has a meaning of the necessity of forming a ditto..when the value is 1. In other words, Miyata clearly teaches a mechanism and structures that identifies all of the storage locations within a storage area upon which an operation is performed.

D) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 11 lines 15-19 for the rejections of dependent claims 29-30,32-41,44-45,48-49,52-54, they are rejected based on the same rationale as discussed in above paragraphs.

E) Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 11 lines 15-19 for the rejections of dependent claim 31, the claim is rejected based on the same rationale as discussed in above paragraphs.

Conclusion

When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc T. Doan whose telephone number is 571-272-4171. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM 05:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 571-272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Kevin L. Ellis
Primary Examiner

K. L. Ellis